

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending.

Applicant respectfully submits the present amendments to the claims obviate the cited references of record. Specifically, the claims now recite the precise timing of initial administration of a topically active corticosteroid, including the beginning and end, as well as the species of topical active corticosteroid used (beclomethasone dipropionate). Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification.

The most relevant outstanding art of record (McDonald et al. and Bertz et al.) is now obviated in view of the present amendments to the claims and the Declaration of record. Specifically, the suggestion by Examiner that one of skill in the art would have naturally extended the length of treatment is rebutted by the Declaration from the Applicant, who also happens to be the author of the subject publication raised as alleged prior art. Dr. McDonald stated that, "one of the main reasons for ceasing treatment at 29 days was due to the potential for the occurrence of the...risks associated with long term glucocorticoid administration." (McDonald Declaration, paragraph 6.) Furthermore, Bertz et al. is now obviated, as the claims now read on beclomethasone dipropionate, rather than the genus "topical active corticosteroid". Accordingly, as Bertz et al. describes treatment using budesonide, Applicant respectfully submits the present claims are free of the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections of record and permit the claims to proceed to allowance. Applicant is filing this response concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, a petition for a three month extension of time and the relevant fees. If there are any questions or comments, Applicant's attorney may be reached at the telephone number state below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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